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SOWERBY BRIDGE
Urban District Council

Annual
REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(J. LYONS,
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.)

and the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
(Wm. E. FOSTER,
A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I.)

for the Year
1954

Hebden Bridge:
Kershaw and Ashworth Ltd., Market Street.

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URBAN DISTRICT OF SOWERBY BRIDGE

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor E. LUMB, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

Councillor G. A. BENBOW

Members of the Council:

Coun. A. Butterworth	Coun. C. Hollas
„ W. Crossfield, J.P.	„ N. Sutcliffe
„ Miss E. Judson	„ T. H. Longbottom
„ H. Wilcock	„ J. Ainscow
„ E. English	„ Mrs. E. Bagshaw
„ I. Atha	„ G. Fernyhough
„ R. H. Campbell	„ W. F. Turner
„ C. W. Maude, J.P.	„ W. Tate
„ A. Crossfield	„ Miss L. Wilson
„ W. Greenwood, J.P.	„ J. C. Bower
„ H. Haigh	„ W. L. Parker

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Members of the Health Committee:

Coun. W. Tate (Chairman)
„ W. Greenwood, J.P. (Vice-Chairman)
„ J. Ainscow
„ Mrs. E. Bagshaw
„ A. Crossfield
„ W. Crossfield, J.P.
„ G. Fernyhough
„ H. Haigh
„ Miss L. Wilson

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

SOWERBY BRIDGE U.D.C.

Medical Officer of Health:

J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

N. E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

W. E. FOSTER, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

J. Holmes, C.R.S.I.



WEST RIDING COUNTY COUNCIL

Preventive Medical Services : Health Division 19

Staff with duties in the Sowerby Bridge District—

Divisional Medical Officer:

As above (M.O.H.)

Senior Assistant County Medical Officer:

*NORMAN E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

**Assistant County Medical Officer, and Medical Officer to
Sowerby Bridge Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics:**

*ALICE SEELIG, M.D.

School Dental Officers:

†P. CUMMINGS, L.D.S.

†R. O. LIBROWICZ, L.D.S.

†J. R. SLATER, B.Ch.D.

Health Visitors

E. B. NOWERS, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.S.C.N

*M. O. FORRESTER, S.R.N., S.C.M.

M. SOUTHWELL, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Tuberculosis Health Visitor:

*B. G. NICHOLL, S.R.N.

Mental Health Social Worker:

*E. C. WROE, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.M.N., H.V.

Mental Health Home Teacher (Qualified):

*Mrs. M. H. GRAHAM, B.A. (commenced Dec., 1953).

Midwives

*A. G. REID, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse.

*D. SANDERSON, S.R.N., C.M.B., Queen's Nurse.

*M. HOLDEN, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Relief Midwife for whole Divisional Area).

Home Nurses:

A. KLEINDIENST, S.R.N., R.F.N., Queen's Nurse.

*A. M. SCHOLICK, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse.

A. HOWARTH, S.R.N., S.C.M.

*K. BOTTOMLEY, S.R.N.

*E. S. SIDDALL, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse (Relief Home Nurse for whole Divisional Area).

* Also have duties in other parts of this Division

† Part time.

**HALIFAX AREA HOSPITALS MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE****Consultant Staff****Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon:**

W. O. LODGE, M.D., F.I.C.S., F.R.C.S. (Edin.)

Chest Physician:

BERTRAM MANN, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.

Orthopædic Surgeon:

G. HYMAN, M.B., F.R.C.S.

Ophthalmic Surgeon:

S. ROBERTSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.O.M.S.

Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre,
Todmorden.

October, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the eighth Annual Report since the inception of the scheme of Divisional Health Administration.

Under the Divisional Health Scheme your Medical Officer of Health is also Divisional Medical Officer for the West Riding County Council's local health services and has similar functions in the Borough of Todmorden, the Urban Districts of Ripponden and Hebden Royd, and the Rural District of Hepton. The scheme has led to a closer integration of local authority health services.

The outstanding feature of the vital statistics for the year is the maintenance of the exceptionally low level of infant mortality. The infant mortality rate calculated over the four-year period 1951-54 inclusive is only 18.9 per 1,000 live births. This is about 30% below the figure for the nation as a whole and also compares very favourably with the previous four years (1947-50 inclusive) when the rate in this district was 31.7. It is worthy of note that this marked improvement has occurred in a community where it is relatively common for expectant mothers to continue in employment until very late in pregnancy and to resume work only a few months after confinement. One can only suppose that, in general, the obvious disadvantages to the infant resulting from the mother's employment are, in this area, balanced and possibly outweighed by the advantages gained from the betterment of the family's financial status, always an important factor in the determination of the health and well-being of the children. The situation might not present itself so acutely if it were not for the fact that the men-folk in local industry are rarely able to achieve the earning power common in those areas where coal mining and other heavy industries are predominant. These considerations might well be borne in mind by the County Council in the evolution of its policy on Day Nurseries.

The year under review was also notable for the beginning of the long-overdue housing survey. This district has inherited a terrible legacy from the Industrial Revolution as the result of which about a quarter of the population is still having to tolerate a standard of housing considerably below accepted modern standards. Discomfort, discord, mental irritation and, at times, disease represent the price paid by the community for the perpetuation of these conditions. The number of houses "unfit for habitation" within the meaning of the Housing Acts is so large that one cannot at present anticipate a complete solution of the problem in the foreseeable future. Even a modified programme of clearance and re-development, though urgently necessary, is fraught with difficulties for, as in the case of child health, economic factors cannot be ignored. It is, for example, conceivable that the increase in rent involved in moving from a "slum clearance" house to a post-war Council house may be so large as to make it difficult or impossible for many families to make the appropriate adjustments to their standard of living. Any such failure would inevitably be reflected in the state of nutrition, health and happiness of every member of the family so cancelling the potential benefits derived from new and improved living accommodation. The Council house would in effect be reduced to a monument to the good intentions of the local authority. Administrative expedients may be devised to lessen the size of this obstacle for the most dependent section of the community, but it should not be forgotten that the **basic** cause of the trouble is the disproportionately high cost of post-war building. It is towards the reduction of this cause that both central and local government should direct their efforts, for the progress of any slum clearance programme must in the long run depend on the degree to which the cost can be met by the combined resources of the district council, prospective tenants and the general public.

There was no exceptional incidence of serious infectious disease in 1954, but a slight increase in the number of notified cases of tuberculosis is a warning that the progress made in recent years does not justify complacency. Fortunately, thanks to better diagnostic facilities and a closer check on contacts, an increasingly high proportion of the cases now being discovered are patients in the early stages of the disease when treatment is so much more successful. We have nevertheless the difficult problem of controlling within the community the occasional chronic infectious patient who has not responded adequately to treatment or who is unco-operative. The practice of retaining such patients in sanatoria for long periods of time has disappeared. Periods of stay in

hospital are now relatively short, patients being discharged as soon as the appropriate course of treatment and rest have rendered the patient reasonably fit for ordinary home care. Alternatively, the patient may be discharged simply because no further special hospital treatment is indicated for the present. In either event a small proportion of patients will still be returned home in an infectious condition or in a condition of doubtful infectivity. The home care, employment and rehabilitation of such patients becomes a difficult and serious problem, often placing the Medical Officer of Health in a dilemma. On the one hand the psychological and economic needs of the patient demand as full a return as possible to a normal place in society. On the other hand the family and the community must be protected against the risk of infection. These two objectives can be mutually antagonistic. A tactful personal approach by the Health Visitor or the Divisional Medical Officer (or both) can, where the patient is co-operative, often "solve" the problem by a compromise, as a result of which it is piously hoped that the risks of infection at home and work will be minimised and that the patient will not feel that he is being unduly restricted or victimised. It is, of course, extremely important that these decisions are made by those with a knowledge, not only of the patient's home conditions, but also of the conditions in local mills, factories, offices and workshops. This important preventive work should therefore not in general be undertaken by hospital physicians and almoners unless there has been close consultation with the Health Department. Where the patient is unco-operative, anti-social, or hostile, the difficulties are multiplied enormously. The statutory powers of the Medical Officer of Health and local authority are restricted to certain well-defined sets of circumstances outlined in the Public Health Acts and elsewhere. Outside this limited field one has no powers of compulsion and there can be no doubt that an irresponsible patient may often "cock a snook" at the Health Department and distribute his germs very nearly with impunity. Fortunately such patients are few and far between.

The care of the aged continues to be the major pre-occupation of the Health Department. The Home Nurses, Health Visitors and Home Helps work in close co-operation with general practitioners and also with the various voluntary and statutory organisations interested in this increasingly important field of human service. The aim of the Health Department is to keep the old folk as happy and as healthy as possible—and for as long as possible—in their own homes,

which is where they most want to be. Only as a last resort is welfare accommodation recommended, yet the size of the problem is measured by the steadily increasing difficulty experienced in securing the admission of even this relatively small hard core of cases. The rate of expansion of County Council Welfare Homes appears to be falling behind the rapid growth in the demand for this service. This growth is in part due to the increasing numbers of aged persons in the community but is accelerated by the gradual fading of the deeply rooted prejudice against welfare homes, a relic of workhouse days. One must add that this prejudice has not yet disappeared to the point at which applications for admission are being made for frivolous or inadequate reasons. All the applications known to the Health Department have been based on strong and valid grounds.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of the Council for their consideration, patience and co-operation, and to thank Mr. Foster, Sanitary Inspector, for his kindness and efforts to give me the sanitary circumstances of the area, and indeed to all your officials with whom I made contacts, personal and official.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B.,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

Vital Statistics

STATISTICS

Area (Census 1951)	5,763 acres
Population, Registrar-General's estimate of	
Resident Population, mid-1954	18,500
Population (Census 1951)	18,770
Number of dwelling-houses	6,862
Rateable Value	£90,578
Product of a Penny Rate	£349-2-5

Summary of Vital Statistics

	Total	M	F	
Live Births— Legitimate Illegitimate	245 18	121 12	124 6	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident Population: 14.2
Still Births— Legitimate Illegitimate	4 —	3 —	1 —	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: 15.0
All Deaths	253	130	123	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 13.7
Deaths of infants under 1 year Legitimate Illegitimate	5 —	5 —	— —	Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births): 19.0

CAUSES OF DEATH IN SOWERBY BRIDGE U.D.

1954

Cause of Death		M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	0
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	1
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	7
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	6	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	4
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	15	7
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1
16.	Diabetes	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	25
18.	Coronary disease, angina	26	14
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	1	4
20.	Other heart disease	23	32
21.	Other circulatory disease	3	2
22.	Influenza	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	3	1
24.	Bronchitis	9	5
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	4	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	1	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	10	7
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	—
34.	All other accidents	2	9
35.	Suicide	1	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES		130	123

Principal Vital Statistics for the year 1954:

Based on Registrar General's Figures

	Sowerby Br'ge U.D.	Ripponden U.D.	Hebden Royd U.D.	Hepton R.D.	Todm'den M.B.	Aggregate W. Riding U.D.	W. Riding Admin. County	England & Wales (Provisional Figures)
BIRTH RATE:— (per 1,000 estimated population)	14.2	11.7	12.1	13.3	12.3	14.7	15.1	15.2
DEATH RATES:— (All per 1,000 estimated home population).	13.7	15.8	13.7	14.3	13.1	12.7	11.9	11.3
All Causes.								
Infective and parasitic diseases *	0.11	—	0.10	—	—	0.07	0.08	* *
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	0.16	0.58	—	0.25	0.16	0.18	0.16	0.16
Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—	0.10	—	—	0.01	0.02	0.02
Cancer	2.59	3.85	2.60	2.71	2.47	2.12	2.01	2.04
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2.00	2.12	1.80	2.96	1.72	2.03	1.84	* *
Heart and circulatory diseases†	5.68	5.96	5.09	4.43	4.46	4.88	4.54	* *
Respiratory Diseases:—† (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	1.03	0.77	1.20	1.97	1.34	1.27	1.22	* *
INFANT MORTALITY:— (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	19.0	49.2	33.1	55.6	35.1	28.3	28.0	25.5
MATERNAL MORTALITY:— (Deaths of mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and still-births)	—	—	—	—	—	0.80	0.89	0.69

* Combined death rate from syphilitic diseases, diphtheria, whooping cough, meningococcal infections, acute poliomyelitis, measles, and other infective and parasitic diseases. (items 3—9 incl. on p.10)

† Combined death rate from heart disease and other diseases of the circulatory system.
(items 18—21 incl. on page 10)

‡ Combined death rate from influenza, pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases, excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system. (items 22—25 incl. on page 10)

SECTION II

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

(A) Hospitals

There is no hospital in Sowerby Bridge. Patients requiring hospital treatment are referred as a rule to hospitals under the administration of the Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee (National Health Service). Included in this group are the Halifax General Hospital, Royal Halifax Infirmary, St. John's Hospital (for the aged and chronic sick), Shelf Sanatorium, Northowram Hall Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Todmorden Fielden Hospital (for long stay medical cases in children), and Todmorden Stansfield View Hospital (for mental defectives).

Maternity beds are available at both the Halifax General and Royal Infirmary. Priority in booking is given to abnormal cases, mothers expecting their first child, and mothers with unsatisfactory home conditions.

Special hospitals (e.g., Mental Hospitals, special Orthopaedic Hospitals, Tuberculosis Sanatoria, etc.) outside the Halifax area are available when required; they are situated in various parts of the so-called "Leeds Hospitals Region" which in fact extends into all three Ridings.

(B) Ambulance Service

The County Ambulance Service (Divisional Depot at Brighouse—telephone Brighouse 840) covers this district. Arrangements also exist with the Halifax County Borough Health Department for the use of their ambulances for the transfer of patients to and from the hospitals in Halifax.

(C) Laboratory Facilities

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Services (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health) at laboratories in Wakefield and Bradford.

(D) Issue of Anti-Toxin, etc.

Supplies of diphtheria and tetanus anti-toxin are available at the Northowram Hall Hospital and the Halifax General Hospital for issue to medical practitioners requiring them. By arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board supplies of tetanus anti-toxin are also kept at the Divisional Health Office, The Medical Centre, Todmorden, for the use of local medical practitioners in the Division.

A supply of re-agents for diphtheria and whooping-cough immunisation is also available free of charge to private practitioners who have undertaken to participate in the West Riding County Council's schemes of immunisation.

SECTION III

W.R.C.C. PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

(A) Clinics and Treatment Centres

Infant Welfare

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	Thursdays	}	2 p.m.
The Institute, Luddenden Foot	Fridays		
Ante-Natal and Post-Natal			
Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	Mondays	}	to 4 p.m.
The Institute, Luddenden Foot	1st Friday in month		

School Clinics

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge		
(a) Minor Ailments	Mondays	10 a.m. to 12 noon
(b) Dental	As required	} by appointment.
(c) Ophthalmic	As required	
(d) Ear, Nose and Throat	As required	
(e) Artificial Sunlight	Tuesdays Fridays	

Smallpox Vaccination
Diphtheria Immunisation
Whooping-Cough Immunisation

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge At any Minor Ailments or
The Institute, Luddenden Foot Welfare Clinic, by arrange-
ment with Medical Officer.

(B) Care of Mothers and Young Children

Sowerby Bridge and Luddenden Foot

Ante-Natal Clinics

Number of expectant mothers attending during the year	68
Total number of attendances	429

Child Welfare Clinics

Number of consultations by doctor during the year	1398
Total number of attendances	3089

Home Visiting of Infants

Total number of live births to Sowerby Bridge mothers	263
Number of first visits to children under 1 year ...	274
Total number of visits to children under 1 year...	1654
Total number of visits to children aged 1-5 years	1637

Provision of Welfare Foods, etc.

A variety of brands of dried milk and other infant foods are sold at the Child Welfare Centres for the convenience of mothers.

National Dried Milk, cod liver oil, orange juice, etc., are also distributed at the Centres under revised arrangements instituted in July, 1954, when the County Council became responsible for this service.

Day Nursery Accommodation

There is a Day Nursery situated on the Beech Recreation Ground to which Sowerby Bridge and Ripponden children may be admitted under certain conditions.

Care of Premature Infants

Special equipment and nursing staff is available for use in the home in cases requiring them.

Provision of Maternity Outfits

These are provided free to mothers preparing for confinement in their own homes.

(C) Professional Nursing in the Home

The County Council are responsible for the home nursing and midwifery services in Sowerby Bridge. There were four full-time Home Nurses and two full-time Midwives employed in 1954. Two of the Home Nurses and both Midwives, however, did not work wholly in the Sowerby Bridge area, also having duties in other parts of the Divisional Area.

Midwifery Service

Number of home confinements	79
Number of hospital confinements	188

Analgesia.—The Sowerby Bridge midwives are trained in the administration of gas and air analgesia and are provided with the necessary equipment. Analgesia is available to all mothers desiring it subject to satisfactory medical examination by a doctor. It is hoped that more mothers will make use of this valuable service.

(D) Health Visiting

The duties of the Health Visitor are combined with those of School Nurse. In pursuance of the National Health Service Act the scope of this service includes home visiting for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of children, and persons (including adults) suffering from illness, and of expectant and nursing mothers. The Health Visitor also gives advice in the home as to measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

(E) Home Helps

The recruitment of suitable women to be Home Helps again proved to be difficult. During 1954 68 cases were attended by Home Helps as compared with 71 cases the previous year, and the total number of hours worked was 8,307.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, the County Council provide domestic help for households “where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age.”

Of the 68 cases attended in 1954, Home Helps were provided for the following reasons: 3 illness, 11 maternity, and 54 chronic sick.

(F) Care and After Care

Special provisions are in operation for the care and after care of patients suffering from tuberculosis, mental illness or defect, venereal disease, and other illnesses.

(G) School Health Service

Number of schools in district	20
Number of children in attendance at school at end of 1954	2954
Number of children examined at school during 1954	1230
this figure being made up as follows:—	
Routine examinations	1037
Re-examinations	193
Number of children referred for treatment	86

(H) Immunisation and Vaccination

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, immunisation against diphtheria and whooping-cough and vaccination against smallpox may be done either at the clinic or by the family doctor.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of Children in Sowerby Bridge who had completed a full course of Diphtheria Immunisation 1954

Age	0-1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Began and completed injections 1954	73	93	20	6	8	26	19	19	4	1	8	2	-	-	-

Total 279

Immunised in previous years re-treated 1954	-	-	-	-	24	100	128	84	36	55	72	37	1	1	-
---	---	---	---	---	----	-----	-----	----	----	----	----	----	---	---	---

Total 538

Immunisation in relation to child population

Number of Children in Sowerby Bridge who had completed a full course of Diphtheria Immunisation at any time to 31-12-54

Age at 31-12-54 i.e. born in year	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total under 15
No. Immunised	73	158	163	167	182	1201	1069	3013

Estimated Mid-year population (under 15 years) ... 3982

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

Number of children in Sowerby Bridge who completed a full course of whooping cough immunisation, 1954

Age at final injection	Under 6 mths	6 mths to 1 year	1-2 yrs	2-3 yrs	3-4 yrs	Total
No. immunised	—	89	31	8	3	131

Immunisation in relation to child population

Number of children at 31st December, 1954, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date.

Age 31:12:54 i.e., born in year	Under 1 1954	1 1953	2 1952	3 1951	4 1950	5 1949	6 1948	Total
No. immunised	22	93	60	27	17	10	6	235

During the year there were 78 notified cases of whooping cough. None of the children concerned had completed the full course of immunisation.

Vaccination against Smallpox 1954

151 people were vaccinated against smallpox during the year, 90 of whom were children under the age of one year. Many of the children were vaccinated at the Child Welfare Centre at Allan House.

SECTION IV

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Summary of Notifications received in year 1954

Disease	Total cases notified
Scarlet fever	22
Whooping cough	78
Acute poliomyelitis	—
Measles	6
Diphtheria	—
Acute pneumonia	14
Dysentery	31
Smallpox	—
Acute encephalitis	—
Enteric or typhoid fever	—
Paratyphoid fevers	3
Erysipelas	4
Meningococcal infection	—
Food poisoning	1
Puerperal pyrexia	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—
Pulmonary tuberculosis	22
Other forms of tuberculosis	6
	<hr/>
Total	187
	<hr/>

Tuberculosis

The number of new cases notified during 1954 are given in detail in the following table:—

		NEW CASES			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
AGE PERIOD		M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5		3	—	1	—
5—14		1	2	1	—
15—24		2	4	—	2
25—44		5	2	1	—
45—64		1	2	1	—
65 and over		—	—	—	—
	Totals	12	10	4	2

There were three deaths from tuberculosis during 1954.

REPORT

of the

Senior Sanitary Inspector

For the Year ending 31st December, 1954

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health
Committee of the Urban District of Sowerby Bridge.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me much pleasure to present to you the Annual Report on (a) the general sanitary conditions in the area; (b) the housing conditions, including overcrowding; and (c) the inspection and supervision of food, for the year ending 31st December, 1954, and for the Cleansing Services for the year ending 31st March, 1955.

This report endeavours to give a comprehensive survey of that branch of the Department dealing with environmental health and the work completed during the year. Unfortunately, there is nothing very spectacular about the duties which are carried out, and whilst improvements are made in relation to the sanitary conditions, water supplies, cleansing services and the like, much of this work is taken for granted and passes almost unnoticed.

On the other hand, I feel that many of the ratepayers appreciate the value of the services available, by reason of the fact that when they find themselves in any difficulties, or require help, they invariably seek assistance from the Department. This was most noticeable during the rather serious floods which were experienced during August, and whilst no prompting was needed to assist these unfortunate people, many turned to the department for help.

The year has seen the introduction of a new Housing Act and the de-control of meat. These have thrown an additional amount of work on to the Department, and will be dealt with in detail under their separate headings.

In my last report I referred to the general improvement of the water supplies in the district, either due the extension

of the town's supply or by the improvement of the existing supply. This progress continues to be steady, and it is pleasing to note that a portion of Mill Bank, including the School, which was seriously affected by the shortage of water, is now on the town's supply, thus relieving the existing private supply of the burden of this part of Mill Bank, and it is considered that with the general examination and replacement of the main where necessary, this should be sufficient for the remaining area and for the general improvement of the sanitary conditions therein.

One very disappointing feature, after the tremendous amount of work that was put in by the Department, is the lack of progress which had been made with the private supplies in the lower parts of Midgley. It was hoped that the offer made by the Council relative to the extension of the main would have proved an attraction, but little or no interest has been shown, thus the work carried out by the Inspector during 1953 will for the most part have to be repeated before any progress can be made.

It is unfortunate that dwellings receiving a doubtful supply of water in areas where the extension of the main is a comparatively easy matter, fail to take advantage of an adequate and wholesome supply of water, but properties much further remote are clamouring for such a supply.

It is anticipated that when the more rural parts of the district obtain an adequate supply of water, then the improvements of the sanitary conditions will follow automatically. Already, where an adequate water supply has been provided, no time has been lost in converting the existing sanitary accommodation to the water carriage system, and when one looks at the figures since the County Review Order, it can be seen that there has been a substantial reduction in both the number of pails and privies in the district, with a consequent improvement of the sanitary conditions.

It may seem surprising, but during this time 190 pails and 899 privies and ashpits have been converted, leaving, as this report shows in 1955, 520 pails and 16 privies, and this has meant an additional 2,105 bins.

One of the most important duties in the department is that of housing, and with the new Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, additional duties have been undertaken, the two most important being (1) the commencement of the survey

of the district for the formulation of the slum clearance scheme: (2) the inspection of houses upon application for a Certificate of Disrepair.

The former item will be dealt with more fully under the section of the report dealing with housing, but at the year end the survey was not complete, and it was hoped to complete this early in 1955. From the information already available it appears that one of the greatest problems, mainly on account of the large number of back-to-back houses, will be the number of properties to be left out of the scheme rather than those that will be included, in order that the scheme can be a workable one.

The problem is obviously going to be extremely difficult, and one that cannot be settled in a short period. It is considered that even if only the worst houses are scheduled, judging from the present rate of house building in the district the problem will take at least twenty years, but during this period some effort will have to be made to improve many of the houses in order to make them reasonably habitable during this period.

Regarding the second item, it was thought that there would be a rush for Certificates of Disrepair, due to the increase in rent that the owners would be asking. This, however, has not been the case, although applications for Certificates of Disrepair have been made, and in many cases granted, these have fallen short of expectations. Could it be that the terms of the Act are not sufficiently generous, or alternatively have the houses so deteriorated through the war years or got into such a state of disrepair that the return does not warrant the expense required to qualify for the increase? If much of the old property of the district is to be retained, as I feel it must, then the return should be such as to justify the expense necessary to make the house fit, provided this does not exceed a reasonable amount. It is known that whilst many owners have ploughed their rents back into the property to keep them in a reasonable state of repair, others have done little or nothing in the maintenance of their property. The only improvements that have been carried out have been by the tenants, who have improved the house for their own comfort. The present cost of maintenance of many of the older houses is such that the rents at the present level show little return to the owner. If the older houses are to be preserved, then some reasonable incentive must be given—an incentive that will give the owner a fair return on his outlay,

otherwise more and more of the older property of our industrial areas will have to be scheduled for clearance until the position will become almost impossible.

In July we saw the de-control of meat supplies, with the consequent termination of Government control of slaughterhouses. Prior to hostilities, there were some ten private slaughterhouses in operation within the district, including the Council's Public Slaughterhouse. The general condition of these was such that the Council considered closing them and providing a Public Abattoir to serve the district. With the commencement of hostilities, the whole idea was shelved, and with the de-control of meat the position was again very carefully reviewed. In view of the general unsatisfactory conditions of the existing slaughterhouses, and the facilities offered by the Halifax Corporation, it was decided that the requirements of the Urban District would be adequately covered by the Public Abattoir at Halifax, and accordingly no slaughterhouses within the Urban District would be opened. An appeal was made against this decision by certain owners of slaughterhouses and an enquiry was subsequently held. After viewing the facilities offered at Halifax, and inspection of certain slaughterhouses within the district, the Minister decided that the appeal should be upheld, and two slaughterhouses, one in Sowerby Bridge and one in Norland, were allowed to open.

The Open Market has now been taken over by the Council and suggestions have been put forward for the re-construction and renewal of the stalls, especially the food stalls, and it is hoped that early next year these will be provided.

There have been several Court cases during the year, the most notable being in connection with the sale of tinned fruit on the Open Market. The case was heard at the West Riding Court, when judgment was given for the Council and the defendant fined £50. This case was followed up and large quantities of food were seized in the Lancashire County area.

I should, before concluding, like to refer to the cleansing of the district. I did mention in my opening remarks that many of the duties were taken for granted, and I am afraid that the emptying of dustbins is one of them. Although I shall deal more fully with the various aspects of cleansing later in this report, I should like to comment on the work of the employees in the department.

It has been my endeavour to arrange for the weekly removal of house refuse throughout the district, but it has not

yet been possible to do this, although we have gone a long way towards achieving the same. There are some 6,327 bins, in addition to 511 pails and 18 privies, scattered throughout the district, of which 80% of the bins are dealt with weekly, together with the pails, trade refuse, clinker, etc. To cope with this work four vehicles are available, with an additional vehicle which is used in times of breakdowns. 4 drivers and 9 labourers, excluding the foreman, man the vehicles in question, 2 of the vehicles dealing with some 4,900 bins, with which 6 labourers are employed, which means a weekly average of 163 bins per man per day, a figure which I am sure compares very favourably with the average for the country as a whole.

The department is not in that fortunate position of having a spare man available. Therefore, during sickness or in holiday periods, the department suffers a very serious setback and the rounds get behind schedule, but every effort is made by the department to keep some semblance of a regular collection. There are those who appreciate this essential public health service and understand the difficulties, and there are those who take the service for granted and are at a loss to understand why the bins of the district are not emptied every week.

The cost of the service has been rising steadily from year to year, but this has been inevitable with the rising costs of labour and transport, and the reduction of the working week. It is extremely difficult to compare the costs of this service with those of other authorities, owing to the different conditions under which they operate, but all things being equal, the cost of the Cleansing Service in Sowerby Bridge compares very favourably with any district of similar size in the country.

It was pleasing to be able to meet the members of the Public Health Committee informally, in order to tour the garage, salvage department and the tips of the district. The information which was obtained, I am sure, was beneficial to all concerned. I also feel that the visit to the slaughterhouses and the Halifax Public Abattoir was also both interesting and instructive to the members of the Committee.

The year has seen a number of changes in the department. Mr. Holmes, the Additional Inspector, of whom I had a great regard, took up the duties of District Sanitary Inspector with the Bradford Corporation in May, and Miss Cynthia Whiteley, who has served the department faithfully for many years, left to get married. I am sure we wish both these servants of the

Council every success in the future. The department was extremely fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. J. Goulden as Additional Sanitary Inspector. I say this in view of the fact of the great shortage of Sanitary Inspectors throughout the country. A junior clerk, Miss S. Wrightson, was appointed to take the place of Miss Whiteley.

May I conclude these remarks by expressing my appreciation to the Chairman of the Committee, Councillor W. Tate, and also to the Public Health Committee for their assistance in the various duties undertaken by the department, and also to Dr. J. Lyons, Medical Officer of Health, for the help which was so readily given at all times. My thanks are also due to the staff of the department, Mr. J. Holmes, Additional Inspector, and later to Mr. J. Goulden; also to the clerical staff, together with the foreman of the Cleansing Department, and the employees who have carried out their work in such an efficient manner. May I also thank all the Officials of the Council, who have so kindly co-operated in supplying general information for this report.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

WM. E. FOSTER, A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLIES

Public Supply

The Public Supply, which is distributed throughout the majority of the district by the District Council, continues to give satisfaction. Samples for both chemical and bacteriological examination have again proved to be satisfactory.

The Public Supplies in Norland and the Ripponden Supply feeding parts of Mill Bank and Triangle, also continue to give satisfaction, as the results of the samples indicate. The Waterworks Department were, however, rather concerned with the low pH value of the Norland Supply, and the efforts made to improve this were successful.

During the year the water main has been extended in the following areas:—

Sowerby Housing Site ...	...	212 yds. of 6in. pipe.
Rooley Lane ...	...	235 yds. of 6in. pipe.
Mill Bank ...	...	236 yds. of 3in. pipe.
Oak Avenue ...	...	51 yds. of 2in. pipe.
Elm Avenue ...	...	78 yds. of 2in. pipe.

Private Supplies

The private supplies remain much in evidence in various parts of the district. The one pleasing feature is the decreasing number of the polluted supplies from year to year. There remains quite a large proportion of the dwellinghouses still dependent upon these private supplies, and approximately 29% still rely upon the same. The majority of these houses, however, are served by some of the larger supplies which are reasonably satisfactory. The smaller supplies are quickly disappearing and are being replaced by the Public Supply.

Unfortunately, little progress has been made in the lower parts of Midgley. The Public Supply has not yet been made available, although the Council are anxious to extend the main to cover all properties in the lower parts of this area, including Duke Street and continuing as far as Springfield Terrace, covering approximately 160 houses and 3 schools. This property at present is served by eleven small supplies

and a larger one, and the majority of the owners have appeared interested in the extension of the town's supply, but have been reluctant to commit themselves due, I fear, to the expense which may be involved. All these supplies have, from time to time upon bacteriological analysis, proved to be unwholesome. Unfortunately, so far, informal approach has failed and it is more than likely that a more formal approach will be needed in certain cases which, I feel, is most unfortunate.

Progress has continued in Mill Bank, resulting in some 36 houses and shops, together with a school, being connected to the Rishworth Supply. With this extension, the private supply covering Mill Bank will be increased, and it is hoped that this will enable the remainder of Mill Bank to have an adequate supply in order to carry out the very necessary improvements to the sanitary conditions. In this instance I feel that the storage capacity is adequate, but the mains, which have received little or no attention, may prove the undoing. This, however, remains to be seen.

With the extension of the town's main through the Sowerby Village to the new reservoir at Rooley, it is pleasing to note that this will now cover the whole of Sowerby Town, which has for some considerable time been supplied with a private supply which has been deteriorating in quality.

The majority of the private water supplies have been sampled and action taken to safeguard these where necessary. During the year 36 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination in various parts of the district, and of these 11 were found to be satisfactory and 25 unsatisfactory. Samples of water were also taken for chemical analysis from the Norland Supply, 3 of which proved to be satisfactory and two doubtful. The examination of the Norland Supply for lead content was also undertaken, and the 6 samples obtained all proved to be satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage

The general maintenance work on the sewers has continued during the year, but apart from this no major schemes of improvement have been undertaken. There are still parts of the district which require an adequate sewer, which are now covered by cesspools which, owing to their general condition, should be abolished. The Council have been very conscious of the position in the Norland area, and although

a survey has been completed and plans forwarded to the Ministry by the appropriate department, little progress has been made.

A considerable amount of work has been carried out on the testing and re-construction of defective drainage systems which have been found either on routine inspection or alternatively as a result of complaint. During the year some 347 inspections and visits have been made in relation to defective drainage systems and the inspection of works in course of completion. In addition to this, some 42 stoppages in drainage systems have been removed under the provisions of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, no charge being made. This work generally is of a minor nature, and where it is found that more extensive works are required, or a defect is located, then this matter is dealt with by the owner, or if by the Council then any costs incurred are recovered. The water test has been applied to all re-constructed drainage systems during the year.

Sewage Disposal

The Sewage Disposal Works at Milner Royd, Sowerby Bridge, and High Royd, Luddendenfoot, continue to give satisfaction. No complaints have been received from the Rivers Board relative to effluent. The disposal works were designed solely for the reception of domestic refuse, but a scheme for the treatment of trade effluent is being considered by both the Luddendenfoot Joint Sewerage Board and the Council, the scheme being well advanced by the former Authority.

Sanitary Accommodation

The conversion of the pails, etc., have continued during the year, although not on quite so large a scale as in the previous year. During the year 39 additional W.C.s have been provided, together with 58 W.C.s for new houses. The percentage of properties now on the water carriage system is approximately 88%.

All the pails and privies are in the outer districts, and although the majority of these districts are covered by an adequate sewer, the water supply is insufficient and conversion so far is out of the question. It is, however, anticipated that with the extension of the Council's supply, especially in the Mill Bank area which has been a black spot regarding the

general sanitary conditions, it is hoped that this will be improved in the next year or so. The conversions throughout the district have been completed entirely by negotiation rather than in a more formal manner, and the contribution has now been increased from £5 to £7 10s. 0d. and is given for each W.C. provided and not, as formerly, for each pail converted.

The types of accommodation in the district are set out as follows:—

Number of Privies with Ashpits	5
Number of Privies with Covered Middens ...	11
Number of Pail Closets	520
Number of Pedestal W.C.s, including Factories and Shops	4324
Number of Trough Closets	21
Number of Waste Water Closets	16
	<hr/> 4897 <hr/>

The pails, sub-divided, are set out in the following table:

The pails of the district are sub-divided as follows:—

District	Pails	Privies	Ashpits
Triangle and Mill Bank ...	63	6	—
Sowerby Bridge	24	—	—
Norland	113	2	—
Sowerby and Blackwood ...	124	7	—
Luddenden Foot (inc. Butts Green)	120	—	—
Midgley	76	1	—
Totals	520	16	—

Although there are in the district some 520 pails and 16 privies, this is a vast improvement to the position in 1945, the position then being 711 pails and 104 privies. This, of course, has only been possible by either the re-construction of the private water supplies or the provision of the town's supply together with the provision of adequate means of disposal.

PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICE

Refuse Collection

The public cleansing of the district, with the exception of street cleansing, is the responsibility of the Health and Cleansing Department. The work includes the collection and disposal of house refuse, including the cleansing of pails, privies, etc., and the collection of trade and market refuse. The collection and disposal of salvage is also undertaken. The department is also responsible for the maintenance and control of transport.

There has been no extension of the service during the year, apart from the additional bins on the new housing site at Sowerby, where 58 new houses have been added to the round. A survey of the district has been undertaken, but it has not been considered possible to extend the weekly collection, thus some 20% continue to be cleansed fortnightly.

The duties of the department are ever increasing with the erection of new houses, but there has been no increase in the labour available for coping with this work. Every effort is made to attend to 80% of the district on a weekly basis, but as I have explained on many occasions, with the reduction in the working week, together with the holidays to which all the employees are entitled and the sick pay which in total amounts to some 40 weeks per year, it becomes extremely difficult to maintain this service, especially when there are no spare men available to undertake this work at such times. With the minimum of men available to carry out this work, it is impossible to keep the rounds at all times up to date, and to avoid overtime being worked. It is understandable, therefore, that an amount of money should be made available to cover such emergencies, and the amount allowed per year for wages should allow for this, as it is impossible to base the annual wages on the number of men employed on a 44-hour week.

The employees are, in my opinion, good workers and quite conscientious, but it is understandable why these men seek alternative employment, usually less arduous and with, in many cases, a greater return.

I have referred previously to the communal ashbin, and I again have to report that there is little or no improvement regarding the same. I consider that they are an eyesore and should be abolished as soon as possible, but with the design

of housing and the arrangement of the same in such areas, it is extremely difficult to deal with this matter. Two alternatives have been suggested:— (1) the provision of separate bins to each house. These will have to be kept within the dwellings and accordingly this method has been ruled out. (2) The provision of bins outside each house, but once again owing to the narrowness of the pavement and the obstruction caused, this again was considered unsatisfactory. I feel that perhaps the way of dealing with these unsatisfactory conditions would be the re-siting not only of the communal ashbin place, but also the sanitary accommodation. This, of course, will depend upon the life of the property in question.

Details of the work completed by the vehicles are set out below:—

Vehicle	Ashbins	Ashpits	Pails	Loads	Tons	Cwts.
Karrier No. 6	29974	—	—	111	1290	10
Bedford No. 7	34796	29	—	484	584	15
Bedford No. 8	6333	69	28271	1001	1267	10
S.&D. No. 9	122070	—	—	523	1601	15
S.&D. No. 10	92116	—	—	418	1252	15
	<u>285289</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>28271</u>	<u>2537</u>	<u>5997</u>	<u>5</u>

Transport

Details of the transport operated by the department are set out as follows:—

No.	Make	Year of Purchase	Capacity	Service
6	Karrier Bantam	1946	7 cu. yds.	Ashbins, Salvage & Trade Refuse.
7	Bedford	1947	7 cu. yds.	Ashbins
8	Bedford	1949	7 cu. yds.	Pails and Pits
9	S & D Rear F & A Loader	1951	18 cu. yds.	Ashbins
10	S & D Rear F & A Loader	1954	18 cu. yds.	Ashbins

It will be observed that five vehicles have been available during the year, but only four of these have been operated, the fifth, namely Bedford 7, has been kept as a spare and this has been found to have been extremely useful, as it has been utilised when other vehicles have been under repair.

The newly acquired garages at Mearclough continue to be satisfactory, and the canteen and sanitary and washing facilities are much appreciated by the employees.

Due to the vehicles working the full ordinary week on cleansing, the maintenance of the vehicles is completed outside the ordinary working week. All the vehicles have received a complete engine overhaul and this, I feel, is very necessary owing to the rather severe nature of the district and the general conditions of many of the roads which the vehicles have to travel. In view of the general conditions, the vehicles are giving extremely good service, especially the Karrier Bantam, which is now nine years old. It is, however, possible that this will have to be replaced during the next financial year.

Accidents

During the year the vehicles have been involved in 10 accidents, as follows:—

Karrier 6	...	...	...	1
Bedford 7	...	...	...	2
Bedford 8	...	...	...	1
S. and D. 9	...	...	...	2
S. and D. 10	...	...	...	2
Bedford Van	...	...	...	2

In view of the fact that six vehicles are operated by the department, I do not consider that the accident rate is very high, especially when one considers these vehicles travel in all parts of the district, in all weathers and on many unmade roads. In certain instances these conditions were a contributory cause of the accident. In nine of these instances the vehicle concerned received very little or no damage whatsoever. The damage caused in these accidents was mostly to manhole covers, garden walls, gate posts, etc. In fairness to the drivers, I feel that they are very capable and are very concerned when they have to report that they have been involved in an accident. I feel that by their skill and patience many accidents are avoided.

Refuse Accommodation throughout Area

The improvement in the general sanitary conditions continues, which can be seen from the reduction in the number of privies and pail closets in the district. In 1937, immediately after the County Review Order, and with the extension of districts, there were 556 pails and 915 privies and ashpits, thus with quite an appreciable amount of work completed prior to the war and 1945, this had been reduced to 711 pails and 104 privy ashpits, etc. The increase in the number of pails is due to the conversion of privies to pails where no sewer or water supply is available. The position to-day is that the pails have been reduced to 520 and the privies to 16. During this period the number of ashbins has increased from 4,279 in 1937 to 6,384 at the present time. Details of improvements over the last five years are set out below:—

Year	Pail Closets	Privies	Ash Pits	Ash Bins
1950	655	51	—	6197
1951	625	45	—	6208
1952	629	30	—	6229
1953	529	23	—	6314
1954	520	16	—	6384

Municipal Ashbin Scheme

The Municipal Ashbin Scheme continues to work satisfactorily, and the costs have been kept down to below those of last year. In view of the cost involved, the scheme has once again been discussed, but no alteration has been made. I feel that it would be wrong to discontinue this scheme, as it is extremely valuable and assists the department greatly when new bins are required. Details of the charges up to date, including those since the inception of the scheme, are set out as follows:—

1949/50	...	...	...	...	£231 (3 months)
1950/51	...	...	...	...	£620
1951/52	...	...	...	...	£382
1952/53	...	...	...	...	£535
1953/54	...	...	...	...	£444
1954/55	...	...	...	...	£320

During the current year details of the scheme are as follows:— 304 ashbins have been provided free of charge, whilst the charges for 105 have been recovered.

In the case of pails, which are also covered by the scheme, 29 were issued free.

From these figures the cost of the scheme has amounted to £320, or 0.902 penny rate.

Details of the cost, etc., are set out below:—

Cost of Ashbins and Pails supplied						
during the year	...	...		484	0	0
Bins charged for ...	...	...	164	7	10	
Pails charged for ...	...	...	—	—	—
				164	7	10
				<hr/>		
				£319	12	2
				<hr/>		

Trade Refuse

The trade refuse of the district continues to be removed weekly, with the exception of the vegetable refuse which is removed three times per week, and the Market which is attended to immediately following the two market days. The charges have continued unchanged and are as follows:— 1 bin of refuse is removed free of charge, whilst a charge of 1s. 0d. for each additional bin or part thereof, is made. The amount of trade refuse removed during the year was 154 tons, which brought in a revenue of approximately £173.

Trouble was experienced during the early part of the year with the disposal of the trade refuse on the controlled tip, especially during the week-ends when, due to the lack of adequate covering material, a certain amount was left with only the minimum amount of cover. Deep coverage has now been resorted to and no further trouble has been experienced.

Refuse Disposal

The entire refuse of the district is disposed of at the controlled tip at Milner Royd, Sowerby Bridge. The tip at Daisy Bank remains closed, thus necessitating all the refuse having to be brought to Milner Royd. As I mentioned in my previous report, a certain amount of saving will be effected with the reduced mileage if the tip at Luddendenfoot were again opened, and I believe it is the wish of the Committee to re-consider this at an early date. It may be possible to open the tip on two days per week, when the vehicles are operating in that part of the district, but the difficulty that arises is the position relative to additional labour. There has been difficulty in the retention of labour at the controlled tip.

Although every effort has been made to control the tip in a proper manner, there has during the year been far too much combustible material in the refuse, and with the labour available it has been extremely difficult to remove this and treat it separately. It is pleasing to note that the fires were not of a serious nature, and were merely on the face of the tip. These were not started by internal combustion, but due to youths and tip combers.

The tip is being used increasingly by local tradesmen, and although tipping space is limited, no objection to this is made, by reason of the fact that covering material is in extremely short supply and this is one source of obtaining the same. A charge is made, except in the case of good clinker. The income from this source during the year was £79.

Salvage

The new waste paper depot continues to be extremely useful in the storage and baling of waste paper. During the year a Camco power press has been installed. This has been mainly due to the difficulty in obtaining suitable labour to carry out the work and in order to avoid the large quantities of waste paper accumulating. It is unfortunate that such a large quantity of waste paper still finds its way into the bin, resulting in the loss of a valuable material and of quite a substantial income which will eventually benefit the ratepayer.

The amount of waste paper collected during the year was 173 tons. The salvage returns showed that approximately

184 tons of materials had been salvaged, bringing in £1,303, whilst the previous year some 280 tons of materials had been salvaged, bringing in £1,522, or a reduction of approximately 96 tons, amounting to £218. This was due in the main to discontinuing the collection of kitchen waste, which amounted to 67 tons, or an income of £145. There was also a decrease in the tonnage and income of miscellaneous items, including various metals and also a reduction in the tonnage of waste paper. Every effort will be made to improve upon this figure in the coming year, but I feel that the reduction in the amount of waste paper was mainly due to the difficulty experienced in pressing the same, as at the end of the year quite a considerable quantity remained unpressed.

The bonus scheme for the employees is still in operation and is paid every half year, provided the basic figure of 13 tons per month is exceeded. During the past year the employees qualified for the bonus on one occasion.

The communal bin for the collection of kitchen waste has now entirely disappeared from the streets, and accordingly additional vegetable refuse is finding its way into the bins. This has not been in such proportions as to have been embarrassing to the department, although the increase has been noticed.

Details of the sale of residuals, together with revenue from the same, are set out as follows:—

Materials Salvaged.				T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	...	...	...	132	3	0	895	13	9
Newsprint	...	...	...	24	2	2	229	3	10
Fibreboard	...	...	...	16	9	3	148	7	9
Ferrous Metals	...	...	...	10	2	3	17	17	5
Non-Ferrous Metals	...	...	...	0	1	2	5	7	6
Rags	...	...	...	0	3	1	3	7	6
Carpets	...	...	...	0	3	0	0	15	0
Kitchen Waste	...	...	...	0	14	0	2	8	1
				<hr/>			<hr/>		
				183	19	3	£1303	0	10
				<hr/>			<hr/>		

Complete details of the salvage recovered since the Council commenced salvage operations are set out as follows:—

SALVAGE SALES 1939 to 1954

Year	Total Tonnages for all Materials			Waste Paper			Ferrous Metals and Loose Tins			Non-Ferrous Metals			Textiles and Rubber			Cullet			Kitchen Waste and Bones			Value		
	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.
1939	3778	8	0	1903	8	0	433	6	3	6	9	3	23	5	2	165	13	2	1246	4	2	13822	1	6
to																								
1950	238	0	1	162	11	3	14	14	0	5	1		5	1		—	—	—	60	4	0	2742	8	9
1951	247	2	2	150	16	3	28	4	1	5	2		1	5	0	—	—	—	66	11	0	1540	15	7
1952	280	13	2	186	14	2	26	9	0	2	1		1	1	3	—	—	—	66	6	0	1521	17	0
1953	183	19	3	172	15	1	10	2	3	1	2		6	1		—	—	—	14	0		1303	0	10
1954																								
	4728	4	0	2576	6	1	512	16	3	7	4	1	26	3	3	165	13	2	1439	19	2	20930	3	8

Infectious Disease and Disinfection

Visits in connection with notifiable infectious diseases have continued throughout the year, and disinfection has been carried out where necessary, although on a much reduced scale.

The usual investigations for the prevention of the spread of disease have been completed, the details of the visits are set out as follows:—

Enquiries into cases of Infectious Disease	73
Visits re Disinfection	13
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease visits, including Dysentery and Paratyphoid	308

There has been a considerable amount of Sonne Dysentery during the year, 157 specimens being obtained, 48 of which were positive. In addition, 59 specimens were obtained from cases of suspected Paratyphoid, 9 being positive.

Smoke Abatement

Due to shortage of staff, very little attention was given to the atmospheric pollution of this district. It is unfortunate that this matter receives so little attention in this industrial area. Whilst so much time is taken up with housing and general public health matters, it is not possible to devote the time necessary to this and other equally important duties.

The number of smoke observations taken during the year totalled 8, of which 4 showed an excessive emission of black smoke. Cautions were issued in each case and it was not found necessary to take any formal action. There were 2 complaints of black smoke during the year, and these were successfully investigated.

I do not consider that the pollution of the atmosphere has increased, but the position could be greatly improved if more time were devoted to this important subject. It would also be interesting to set up stations within the Urban District in order to ascertain the degree of pollution and also the soot and general deposit in various parts of the district, but with the additional duties and no additional staff, it looks as though this will be just wishful thinking.

Factories

As a result of general inspection and complaint from H.M. Factories Inspectors, 21 inspections of the factories throughout the district have been made, as a result of which 3 contraventions of Section 7 of the Factories Act were observed. All these were satisfactorily completed.

Details of the inspections and defects are set out in the following tables:—

Inspections

Factories	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	Written Notices
In which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 enforced by Local Authority	21	5	—
Where Section 7 is enforced	123	12	—
Total ...	144	17	—

Defects Found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Inadequate Ventilation ...	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences			
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—
Total ...	3	3	—

Swimming Baths

The Public Swimming Bath, which is open to the public during the summer season, has again been sampled for both

chemical and bacteriological examination. 4 samples were obtained for chemical and 4 for bacteriological analysis. All were found to be satisfactory. The pH value of the water on an average was 7.2 and the chlorine content was that recommended by the Ministry of Health, being approximately .5 parts per million at the inlet, and .4 parts per million at the outlet. The condition of the water has been quite satisfactory, and the complaints from the bathers appear to have been negligible.

There are no private swimming baths or pools in the area.

Nuisances (Part 3, Public Health Act, 1936, except Smoke Nuisances)

Although the majority of inspections and visits under this heading are made after complaints, certain have been observed during routine inspections.

During the year the number of inspections made for nuisances only, totalled 76. These were in relation to 4 nuisances outstanding at the end of 1954, and 42 which were found during the current year. Informal notices were served in 23 cases, 21 of which were complied with. There was one statutory notice issued, which was complied with after legal proceedings had been taken.

Quite an amount of work under this heading is completed on verbal instructions, to the satisfaction of all concerned. The details set out under this heading do not include the very many visits made in connection with the sanitary inspection of the area, housing inspection and inspections in relation to the public cleansing service. These are set out separately.

In addition to the details set out above, 42 private drains have been attended to. This work has been carried out under the provisions of the West Riding (General Powers) Act. The majority have been of a very minor nature, merely being the blockage of a gulley or a short length of pipe. A few, however, were of a more major nature, involving the entire rodding of the drainage system. The expense incurred was not recoverable. Work has continued during the year in connection with defects involving more than one owner, when the work has been carried out by the department upon the receipt of an authorisation, and the cost allocated according to user. This has worked quite satisfactorily and has been carried out in a purely informal manner.

Offensive Trades

There has been no addition to the Register of Offensive Trades and no application has been received. At the end of the year there were 29 establishments on the register, 28 of which were Fish Friers. There is 1 Tripe Boiler in the district.

No notices were served relative to defects in these establishments, and the general standard of cleanliness was found to be quite good. 8 inspections were made during the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

	Visits
Bakehouses	13
Camping Sites	3
Conversions—Visits	72
Dangerous Buildings	4
Drainage, etc.	347
Factories	21
Flooding	297
Fried Fish Shops	6
General Administration	31
Hairdressers	21
Houses Let in Lodgings	7
Interviews	152
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	65
Offensive Trades	13
Petrol Pump Inspections	4
Public Conveniences	6
Refuse Collection	297
Refuse Disposal	175
Rodent Control (excluding Sewer Maintenance)	207
Salvage	231
Sanitary Accommodation—Defects	57
Schools	16
Shops	37
Smoke Observations	8
Stables, Piggeries and Poultry	24
Tents, Vans and Sheds	7
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	3
Visits re Cleansing Administration	67
Water Courses—Survey	27
Water Supplies	101
	<hr/>
	2,319
	<hr/>

HOUSING

The passing of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, brought amongst other things two important provisions (a) Slum Clearance proposals; (b) Inspection of dwellings relative to the Certificate of Disrepair.

According to the Act, the schemes of the Council should be completed and forwarded to the Ministry by the end of July, 1955. Already a considerable amount of work has been carried out in relation to this matter, and at the end of the year some 264 houses had been inspected in addition to a general survey of the outer districts.

Within the boundary of the Urban District are some 6,500 houses, the vast majority are of the working class type, many being more than 100 years old. One of the biggest problems which we have to face is the large proportion of back-to-back houses or similar dwellings with no through ventilation. It has been suggested that such houses as these, by their very nature, are unfit dwellings. If this is the case, then we have some 2,292 unfit houses, disregarding the number of through houses which come into this category. There are at the present time some 1,821 back-to-back houses, 154 back-to-earth, 265 single or blind back houses, and 52 single room dwellings.

The back-to-back houses vary considerably, depending upon the period in which they were constructed, and they are generally of three types:— (a) the smallest type, consisting of merely one up and one down, entered directly from the street, occasionally with an attic bedroom available. There is both communal refuse and sanitary accommodation, and little or no amenities in the house. (b) The second type is larger and usually consists of a small windowed scullery in addition to the living room. 2 bedrooms are usually available, and whilst communal sanitary and refuse accommodation is also to be found, certain of this type have separate sanitary accommodation adjoining a basement kitchen. (c) The third type is again an improvement on this and has more modern amenities and does not open directly on to the street. This type is not common in Sowerby Bridge, and where it does exist it has been modernised from Type (b).

It will be an absolute impossibility to deal with all the back-to-back houses in Sowerby Bridge within a reasonable period, and whilst there are a considerable number which are unfit and should be dealt with in clearance areas, there are

others well built and which will lend themselves for conversion into through houses where modern amenities could be provided. There are others where conversion is not a practicable possibility by reason of the fact that they are built on different levels or so large as to make conversion impracticable. It is quite evident, therefore, that a large proportion of back-to-back houses must remain, and cannot be dealt with during the period under review.

The number of houses which will be included will have to be those that can effectively be dealt with during say, a 20 year period, and the number will depend upon the new houses which can be provided for re-housing the displaced families. Whilst small blocks of houses will have to be included, efforts have been made to include areas which can be re-developed. Whilst many people prefer to be housed on the new sites at Sowerby and at Kershaw House, Luddenden, there are still a considerable proportion who prefer to remain in Sowerby Bridge or Luddendenfoot, and every effort should be made to re-develop areas wherever possible, and to re-house the people of Sowerby Bridge in Sowerby Bridge, and so re-house in and around the areas where shopping is readily available and all the services are also readily available for re-development. I feel that it is absolutely essential for the well being of Sowerby Bridge that re-housing on these lines should be carefully considered.

During the year 14 houses have been closed as unfit for human habitation, under Section 11, and it is hoped to deal with the houses adjoining these in a similar manner as and when they become vacant.

During the year some 187 inspections in relation to overcrowding, under Part 4 of the Housing Act, 1936, have been carried out. The position relative to overcrowding is set out separately. It was necessary to take legal action in one instance for the deliberate overcrowding of a single room dwelling. The overcrowding was abated before Court action was necessary. Action has also been necessary regarding overcrowding of a house let in lodgings, and here again the overcrowding was abated before formal procedure was necessary.

During the year 11 applications were made under the Housing Act, 1954, for Improvement Grants, 8 of which were granted, 3 being rejected.

During the year 58 houses of the permanent type were erected on the Sowerby site by the Council. No houses were built by private enterprise.

The housing statistics for the year 1954 are set out as follows:—

- 1 Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year.
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 343
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 587
 - (2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations ... Nil
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose Nil
 - (3) Number of dwellinghouses needing further action:—
 - (a) Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 13
 - (b) Number (excluding those in sub-head (3) (a) above), found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 273
- 2 Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	251
--	-----
- 3 Action under Statutory Powers during the year.
 - A Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1936:—
 - (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 1
 - (2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:—
 - (a) By owners ... 1
 - (b) By Local Authority ... Nil

B Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	4
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:—					
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	Nil

C Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwellinghouses unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	13
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...					Nil
(3) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...				Nil

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...			Nil

4 Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	25
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...				26
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...				144
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...		9
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	42
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases					270
(d) Number of inspections made	...	...			187

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Distribution

During the year the following Licences were issued under the various Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949:—

Supplementary Licences to Retail Pasteurised Milk ...	3
Supplementary Licences to Retail Tuberculin Tested Milk	4
Supplementary Licences to Retail Sterilised Milk ...	3
Dealer's Licence to use the designation Pasteurised ...	27
Dealer's Licence to use the designation Tuberculin Tested	4
Dealer's Licence to use the designation T.T./Pasteurised	13
Dealer's Licence to use the designation Sterilised ...	28

The pasteurising establishment has, during the year, been converted from the Holder method of pasteurisation to the H.T.S.T., and in addition a bottling plant has been installed. Unfortunately, during this period, complaints were received relative to the quality of this milk. However, the position eased soon after the alterations were completed.

Further trouble was experienced during the year in relation to the preparation and bottling of orange juice in pasteurising establishments, and although this practice is carried out in various milk establishments up and down the country, it is in contravention to the Milk and Dairies Order. It was pleasing to note during the year that separate premises apart from the pasteurising establishment were provided for the preparation and bottling of this commodity.

The dumping of milk on the highways and vacant plots of land of the district has now almost ceased.

Milk Sampling

During the year 4 samples of milk have been obtained from the retailers of the district. All these were from designated supplies and all were found to be satisfactory.

Food Inspection

Inspections of the food shops, cafes and restaurants have been carried out during the year. Details are as follows:—

Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	46
Cow Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	20
Fish Merchants and Poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Food Preparing Establishments	...	...	...	...	...	21
Food Storage Premises	...	...	...	...	...	3
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	4
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	14
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	15
Pasteurising Establishment	...	...	...	...	...	8
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	7
Public Markets	...	...	...	...	...	100
Restaurants and Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	11
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	59
Street Vendors' and Hawkers' Carts	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous Food Visits	...	...	...	...	...	27
						<hr/> 341 <hr/>

The general condition of the premises, including the equipment, is reasonably satisfactory. The personnel engaged in the retail food industry in the district appear to be quite conscious of their responsibilities, and a satisfactory standard of cleanliness and food hygiene is maintained.

As a result of general inspections, the following food has been surrendered as unfit for human consumption:—

				Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Vegetables	...	...	...	0	1	8	8
Meat	...	...	...	2	3	2	11
Fruit	...	...	...	1	3	13	8
Fish	...	...	...	0	0	8	11
Shredded Suet	...	...	...	0	0	3	0
Lard	...	...	...	0	0	4	0
Margarine	...	...	...	0	0	4	8
Flour	...	...	...	0	0	16	0
Rice	...	...	...	0	0	2	4
Miscellaneous Foodstuffs	...	...	...	0	0	5	0
				<hr/> 5	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 12	<hr/> 2 <hr/>

32 gallons Milk; 55 tins Milk; 26 tins Strained Foods; 19 tins Soup; 14 bottles Beetroot, Salad Dressing, etc.; 3 tins Shrimps; 2 tins Bournvita; 1 tin Grapefruit Juice.

Meat Inspection

With the de-control of meat, the position relative to the slaughter of animals was very carefully considered. Several meetings between the Council and the Meat Traders' Association relative to slaughtering facilities took place and the general observations were that slaughtering facilities should be made available within the Urban District, either by providing a central slaughterhouse, or re-opening the private slaughterhouses. In view, however, of the general condition of the Council's slaughterhouse and of the private slaughterhouses within the district, the Health Committee visited the Halifax Abattoir in order to examine the facilities available, as for the past twelve years Halifax have catered for the adjoining districts, including Sowerby Bridge.

Further to the inspection, a meeting between representatives of the County Borough of Halifax and adjoining Authorities was called, and whilst Halifax guaranteed adequate slaughtering facilities to each of the Authorities, dressing bays could not be earmarked for each separate Authority. As a result of this meeting and inspection, together with the inspection of the private slaughterhouses in Sowerby Bridge, the Council were of the opinion that the adjoining County Borough of Halifax could adequately cater for this area, and accordingly an announcement to this effect was made in the local press. As two slaughterhouses had already kept their licences from year to year, one intimated to the Council that they intended to slaughter immediately after de-control and would put the slaughterhouse in order. A further application for a Norland slaughterhouse was received. This was rejected and an appeal was subsequently heard in the West Riding Court during November. The magistrates in this case ruled that as an enquiry was to be held on this matter within the Urban District of Sowerby Bridge in the immediate future, judgment would be withheld until a decision had been made by the Ministry. The enquiry on this matter was held early in 1955.

Details of the slaughtering within the district after de-control are set out as follows:—

			Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number slaughtered	...	...	8	11	61	48
Number inspected	...	...	8	11	61	48

All Diseases except Tuberculosis—

Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	12½%	—	—	—

Tuberculosis Only—

Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	12½%	—	—	—

22 visits were paid to the privately owned slaughter-house following the de-control of meat. The total weight of meat condemned was 133lbs. In addition to the details set out above, meat inspection was carried out in an adjoining Authority, where 3 beasts, 9 pigs and 53 sheep were examined.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

Application was received from 18 butchers for a licence under the above Act, and these were granted without exception.

Ice Cream

There are no manufacturers of Ice Cream within the Urban District, all the establishments retailing wrapped ice cream. There is no loose ice cream sold at any shop within the district. Loose ice cream is, however, retailed from two vans touring the district during the summer months.

During the year 26 inspections were made of the retailers within the district, and 12 samples were obtained. All these, upon examination, were satisfactory, being placed in Provisional Grade 1.

Details of the retailers are as follows:—

Grocers and Mixed Shops	...	...	...	...	30
Sweets and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	12
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	5
Cinemas	...	...	...	...	2

FOOD PREPARING ESTABLISHMENTS

Bakehouses

There are 17 bakehouses on the register, none of which is of the underground type, and these have been visited on 13 occasions. The standard of cleanliness remains satisfactory and the trend towards a general improvement has been obtained.

The Model Bakery in the district continues to work satisfactorily.

There are 7 cafes and restaurants in the district, and during the year these have been visited on 11 occasions. The standard of cleanliness is reasonably satisfactory, although in certain instances an improvement in the general design is necessary. This is usually due to the fact that where a small restaurant has been provided, the business has increased and the facilities for the storage of food and preparation of the same are insufficient.

Market

The Open Market is now the property of the Council, and certain improvements are necessary, especially regarding the stalls where food is displayed and sold. Although the majority of these at present are properly screened, there is an inadequacy of washing facilities and it is hoped that new stalls will be provided, with sinks and adequate supplies of hot and cold water.

During the inspection of the Market, it was observed that certain food was being sold in contravention of the Food and Drugs Act. Action was taken under Sections 3 and 9, and the case was duly heard in the West Riding Court on the 23rd June. Judgment was given to the Council in this case and the defendant was fined a sum of £50 in addition to costs. In this instance, food in blown containers was being offered for sale. In view of the large consignment, the matter was followed up in two County Boroughs in Lancashire, where a considerable amount of unfit food was seized. Here again proceedings were taken, but unfortunately they were not successful.

Food Poisoning

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year, but during the investigations into cases of Sonne

Dysentery, there were several cases which, as the results of the examination of specimens showed, were found to be caused by organisms of food poisoning.

Food Hawkers

At the time of preparing this report there were 28 food hawkers registered with the Council. The general condition of the vehicles and the food storage premises was satisfactory.

Details are as follows:—

- 11 dealing in Bread and Confectionery.
- 8 dealing in Greengrocery, including Fish.
- 7 dealing in Ice Cream.
- 2 dealing in General Foodstuffs.

Petroleum Acts and Orders

At the commencement of the year the following licences were issued:—

Storage of Petroleum Spirit	...	...	...	40
Storage of Cellulose Paint or Petrol Mixtures	...			4
Storage of Carbide of Calcium	...	...	...	2

34 inspections of the petrol stations and factories throughout the district were made in connection with the issuing of these licences.

Rodent Control

The majority of work in connection with rodent control is carried out by the Cleansing Foreman, and with an increased amount of work on cleansing, salvage, drainage and other duties, the amount of time available for rodent control has been severely restricted.

It has not been possible to carry out a general inspection of the district or a survey of the factories, food shops, canteens and farms. Consequently, the only inspections that have been made have been those as a result of complaint, although in several instances when the inspection of a food shop by one of the Inspectors has been undertaken, this has also been examined for rats and mice.

During the year 57 premises were given a full treatment. The infestations generally were not severe, only one major

infestation was observed. Details of the treatment are as follows:—

Crow Wood Park	...	...	...	...	1
Refuse Disposal Sites	...	...	...	...	4
Salvage Depot	...	...	...	...	20
Private Dwellings	...	...	...	...	15
Business Premises	...	...	...	...	16
Farms	...	...	...	...	1
					—
					57
					—

In connection with this work 207 visits and inspections were made. The work for the most part was carried out with Warfarin and oatmeal, and the use of zinc phosphide and sausage rusk was once again confined to the tip and sewer baiting. The results were very satisfactory, but I feel that much more work with much better results could be obtained if more time could be devoted to this work.

The refuse disposal site at Milner Royd has been a source of trouble, but this has been kept under constant observation, and twice during the year Cymag gas was used on the more consolidated parts of the tip, and again this had excellent results.

The sewers of the district have been treated on two occasions in addition to the test bait which was laid during the early part of the year. Details of the sewer treatments are set out below:—

Section	No. of Man- holes	No. not baited	No. Baited	Pre-bait taken			
				C	P	Total Takes	N.T.
Millbank/Triangle	69	39	30	7	11	18	12
Sowerby/Triangle	65	60	5	—	—	—	5
Luddenden Foot Dist.	77	45	32	12	9	21	11
Midgley District	67	61	6	—	—	—	6
Beechwood	92	84	8	—	—	—	8
Sowerby/Ludd. Foot	99	89	10	—	—	—	10
Sowerby Bridge Sec. 1	92	58	34	2	6	8	26
Sowerby Bridge Sec. 2	124	90	34	10	9	19	15
Sowerby Bridge Sec. 3	121	89	32	6	7	13	19

C — Complete Take P — Partial Take NT — No Take

The above table includes Test Bait.

It is pleasing to note from the test baits that there was no increase in the number of infested manholes, whilst the sewers on Beechwood housing estate and the new housing estate at Sowerby show no signs of infestation.

The dwellinghouses throughout the district still continue to receive free treatment, but any expense incurred in connection with work at business premises, factories, etc., is recoverable.

During the summer months there was a major infestation of rabbits on The Holmes Park at Luddendenfoot. All the burrows were gassed with satisfactory results. During the survey and treatment of the parkland 143 rabbit burrows were treated.

Miscellaneous Duties

During August, as a result of a cloud burst, serious flooding occurred in the district. Many of the private water supplies in the out-district were polluted and these, as far as possible, were treated and made safe. Damage otherwise was confined mostly to household effects, furniture, floor covering and the like.

As a result, 297 visits were made to the affected houses, disinfectant issued, carpets and furniture collected. There were more than 100 carpets dealt with in the space of 24 hours. These were dried and partly cleaned and returned. The members of the Sowerby Bridge Round Table offered their services and assisted many old people in cleaning their houses. This very practical gesture was greatly appreciated.

Although this work, generally speaking, was outside the duties of the Health Department, the help given at this time was appreciated, and it was pleasing to note the rapidity with which many of these households were restored almost to normal.

